

COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF SAMBURU



THE HANSARD

Tuesday, 24th September, 2024

The Assembly met at the County Assembly Chambers at 2.30 pm

The Deputy Speaker, (Hon. Lelengeju Jackson) in Chair

PRAYER

STATEMENTS

The Deputy Speaker, (Hon. Lelengeju Jackson): Hon. Stacy Nareyo

Specially Elected Member, (Hon. Stacy Nareyo): Thank you Hon. Speaker allow me to read the above request for statements from Hon. Kaunda Lenamparasio directed to the Chairperson Labor committee, pursuant to standing order No. 45(c) I hereby request for a statement from the Chairperson of sectorial Committee on labor, social welfare justice and legal affairs regarding the current status of unpaid casual workers in Samburu County Executive in various Departments.

According to section 35 (3) of the constitution of Kenya 2010, an employee works continuously for two months or more from the date of employment as a casual employee shall be entitle to such terms and conditions on service as he or she has been entitle to had he or she not initially been employed as a casual employee. The late payment to casual workers in Samburu County have not only compromise the welfare of people of Samburu but also negatively impacted their productivity and performance in delivering the essential services to the Samburu County Government.

The key concerns raised by the affected workers include;

1. The chronic delays in payment, casual workers experience delays in receiving their wages with some waits for months without paid. This places them in very financial distress and making it difficult to meet their basic needs such as food, housing, education and Healthcare. The uncertainty around pays due to the demoralizing and unsustainable for workers who rely on this wages for daily survival
2. Lack of employment benefits, whereby the casual workers employed by the Samburu County government do not receive benefits such as health insurance, pensions, contributions or paid leave.
This leaves them vulnerable especially in cases of illness or emergency and prevents them from achieving long term and financial stability.
3. Poor working conditions and the absence of clear contracts, whereby many workers in Samburu County are employed without formal contracts which makes it difficult for them

to demand for accountability or seek distress for the issues they face. This lack of formal employment terms exposes them to potential exploitation and job security.

4. Low wages, the wages paid to the workers in Samburu County often fall below the minimum wage standard set by the national government and their financial hardship. Couple with delayed payment significantly diminished their quality of life.

In the statement the chairperson of labor should inquire into and report into;

1. An argent update on the current condition and status of all the casual Workers' in Samburu County government in various departments
2. The Chairperson should also inquire at the breakdown of the budget allocated for each of the matter departments
3. The County Executive Member of finance, economic planning and ICT to also clearly explain why there are delays in the payment of casual workers in the County government of Samburu for more than three months.
5. To ensure the formulations of a regularization policy to cater for casual workers and a timely payment plan as well.
6. Whether the SRC and CRA circulars on workers are being followed in Samburu County government. As you saw in the County Assembly of Samburu, we had our local arrangement to actually follow on the SRC and CRA circulars, so we also want to know whether there are those local arrangements in the County executive to ensure that the casual workers are well catered for. Thank you Hon. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker, (Hon. Lelengeju Jackson): Hon. Stacy, just for the purposes of records of this statement, go back to number four, it seems you have skipped.

Specially Elected Member, (Hon. Stacy Nareyo): Pardon?

The Deputy Speaker, (Hon. Lelengeju Jackson): Read number four, it seems you have skipped.

Specially Elected Member, (Hon. Stacy Nareyo): Thank you Hon. Speaker, I am sorry for that.

4. Is about the absence of clear contracts whereby many workers in Samburu County are employed without formal a contract which makes it difficult for them to demand for accountability or seek distress for the issues they face? This lack of formal employment

terms exposes them to potential exploitation and job insecurity whereby they are not going to be compensated if they are not going to be given those contact. Thank you

The Deputy Speaker, (Hon. Lelengeju Jackson): Chair for responsible department or any member in the House?

Specially Elected Member, (Hon. Stacy Nareyo): I think I am a Member the only Member in the labor committee I do not know if there is any other Member? Yes. So having received the statement, the committee of labor is going to inquire on the Report and also to request the CEMC of finance to actually appear before this Hon. House to explain on the issues of casual workers.

The Deputy Speaker, (Hon. Lelengeju Jackson): when is that likely to be?

Specially Elected Member, (Hon. Stacy Nareyo): just give us a minimum of about one week

The Deputy Speaker, (Hon. Lelengeju Jackson): Table clerks I hope you have taken the concern of that? Hon. Silapia.

Specially Elected Member, (Hon. Lenamatiyio Silapia): Thank you Hon. Speaker, I just want the Hon. Member to be specified on the date because when just say one week, just give us the exact date they are going to respond on the same.

The Deputy Speaker, (Hon. Lelengeju Jackson): Hon. Stacy can you give the dates?

Specially Elected Member, (Hon. Stacy Nareyo): Thank you Hon. Speaker, I request us to give the Report on 1st October that is going to be on Tuesday at 2:30pm

The Deputy Speaker, (Hon. Lelengeju Jackson): Quite in order. Hon. Lorunyei

MCA Nachola Ward, (Hon. Lorunyei Lowrence): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Sometimes we need to be realistic and practical. One week is not enough because of the weight of the matter and we need to give enough notice so that somebody cannot get an excuse. So consider about the lengthy of the time. Thank you

The Deputy Speaker, (Hon. Lelengeju Jackson): Hon. Lorunyei why do you think seven days is short enough for anybody to give out what is there in the records if at all this casual workers laborers exists?

MCA Nachola Ward, (Hon. Laurence Lorunyei): Hon Speaker it is just an opinion because we need at least to be practical than that time again somebody saying that, we require for another more time, just for concern.

The Deputy Speaker, (Hon. Lelengeju Jackson): Hon. Stacy can you give a different date?

Specially Elected Member, (Hon. Stacy Nareyo): okay, Hon. Speaker, I understand the weightiness of the matter, so we are going to request the CEMC of finance and the people who are responsible for this to give us a timeline so considering the weightiness of the matter, maybe we can bring the Report on 3rd that is on Thursday,

I do not know whether the House is okay with that but it will depend with the time that they are going to actually respond on this matter. Bu we are hoping they respond it in time considering the weightiness of the matter and also the facts that a lot of casuals are actually not paid. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker, (Hon. Lelengeju Jackson): Hon. Silapia

Specially Elected Member, (Hon. Lenamatiyio Silapia): Thank you Hon. Speaker, I think this statement is not going in heaven; we are just taking this statement to the people who are within this County. Who are just within the next Office? So I do not see the need of even adding another week. We are handling this matter each an everyday even in social media they are there and they know what they are doing.

I do not really differ with Nareyo but one week is enough for the CEMC or the concern department to reply the same matter because it is just going to their records and say that these are the ghosts' workers we have or these are the casuals we have and then bring them to this Hon. House. Because this matter of giving statements two weeks is the same matter that delays the statement to take even six months because of the laxity of this House. So one week is enough. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker, (Hon. Lelengeju Jackson): Hon. Nareyo advice your team that the response is required here on 3rd October, 2024 2:30pm

Specially Elected Member, (Hon. Stacy Nareyo): Noted Hon. Speaker.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Members the time being 17 minutes past 3 o'clock and there being no other business to discuss, this Assembly now adjourns until at Wednesday 25th of September 2024 at 9:00am.